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C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 005201

SIPDIS

DEPT FOR DRL, EUR/WE AND EUR/ERA

E.O. 12958: DECL: 11/16/2013

TAGS: PHUM PREL IR IT UNGA UNGA

SUBJECT: UNGA 3RD COMMITTEE IRAN RESOLUTION: NO ITALIAN  
CO-SPONSORSHIP, VOTE DECISION PENDING

REF: A) STATE 316541 B) STATE 318063

CLASSIFIED BY: POL M/C TOM COUNTRYMAN, REASONS 1.5 (B) AND (D)

1. (C) ITALY WILL NOT CO-SPONSOR CANADA'S 3RD COMMITTEE  
RESOLUTION ON IRAN, DEPUTY POLDIR CLAUDIO BISOGNIERO TOLD POL  
M/C NOVEMBER 14. BISOGNIERO'S RESPONSE CONFIRMED MFA HUMAN  
RIGHTS COORDINATOR ALESSANDRO FALLAVOLLITA'S LATE OCTOBER  
ASSESSMENT THAT EU MEMBER-STATES HAD REACHED CONSENSUS TO  
SUPPORT AN IRAN RESOLUTION IF ONE WAS TABLED, BUT NOT TO  
CO-SPONSOR ONE.

2. (C) BISOGNIERO ALSO INDICATED THE ITALIAN MFA WAS UNHAPPY  
WITH THE LENGTH AND DEGREE OF DETAIL IN THE CANADIAN DRAFT;  
AS EU PRESIDENT, IT HAD PROVIDED CANADA WITH NUMEROUS  
PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE DRAFT AGREED BY FELLOW MEMBER-STATES.

ITALY WOULD WAIT UNTIL JUST PRIOR TO A VOTE ON THE  
RESOLUTION, PROBABLY THE DAY BEFORE, TO DETERMINE WHETHER THE  
DRAFT WAS SUFFICIENTLY IMPROVED TO MERIT ITS VOTE IN FAVOR.  
HUMAN RIGHTS DEPUTY OFFICE DIRECTOR CAMPANILE TOLD US  
NOVEMBER 17 THE EU'S PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE CANADIAN  
DRAFT ALREADY HAD BEEN TRANSMITTED TO THE ITALIAN MISSION IN  
NY.

3. (C) COMMENT: THE ITALIANS SHARE OUR CONCERNS OVER IRAN'S  
POOR RECORD ON HUMAN RIGHTS BUT REMAIN WEDDED TO THE EU'S  
POLICY OF ENGAGEMENT. FALLAVOLLITA HAS ARGUED TO US THAT THE  
EU'S HR DIALOGUE WAS BEGINNING TO PRODUCE RESULTS, CITING  
TEHRAN'S PROFESSED WILLINGNESS TO CONSIDER TERMINATING THE  
USE OF JUVENILE EXECUTIONS AND STRIKING THE RELIGION CLAUSE  
FROM ITS UNIVERSAL REGISTRATION LEGISLATION. REFLECTING THE  
EU'S COMMITMENT TO THIS DIALOGUE, THE ITALIANS ARE TRYING TO  
STRIKE THE FINE BALANCE BETWEEN CRITICIZING CREDIBLY THE  
IRANIAN GOVERNMENT AND MAINTAINING INCENTIVES FOR IT TO  
CONTINUE THE DIALOGUE WITH THE EU. TO BE EFFECTIVE, ANY  
FURTHER DEMARCHES ON THIS RESOLUTION WOULD REQUIRE MORE  
SPECIFIC REFERENCES TO PROBLEMATIC ASPECTS OF THE EU'S  
PROPOSED AMENDMENTS IN NY.  
SKODON

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